

NOTICE OF INTENT
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to amend rules to change recreational harvest regulations for black bass (*Micropterus spp.*) in the Atchafalaya River Basin and adjacent waters.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 1. Freshwater Sports and Commercial Fishing

§165. Black Bass Regulations-Atchafalaya River Basin, Lake Verret, Lake Palourde Complex

A. The daily creel limit (daily take) for black bass (*Micropterus spp.*) is 10 7 fish and the minimum total length limit is 14 inches with no minimum length limit in the area south of U.S. 190 from the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee to the intersection of LA 1 and U.S. 190 due north of Port Allen, east of the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee from U.S. 190 to U.S. 90, north of U.S. 90 from the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee to LA 20, north and west of LA 20 from U.S. 90 to LA 1 in Thibodaux, south and west of LA 1 from LA 20 to U.S. 190. This rule will expire two years from its effective date.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25) (a), 325(C), 326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 19:361 (March 1993), amended LR 21:960 (September 1995), LR 23:998 (August 1997), amended LR 39: .

§189. Black Bass Regulations, Lake Fausse Point/Lake Dauterive Complex

A. The harvest regulations for black bass (*Micropterus spp.*) on the Lake Fausse Point/Lake Dauterive complex located west of the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee in Iberia and St. Martin Parishes, Louisiana are as follows.

1. Size Limit- ~~it shall be unlawful to take or possess, while on the water or while fishing in the water, black bass less than 14 inches total length~~ no minimum length limit.

2. Daily Take-no more than ~~10~~ 7 fish.

B. These regulations apply to all areas west of the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee from Highway 3083 to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers locks at the Charenton Drainage and Navigation Canal, north of and including the Charenton Drainage and Navigation Canal from the Corps of Engineers locks to Highway 87, north and east of Highway 87 from the Charenton Drainage and Navigation Canal to Highway 320, east of Highway 320 from Highway 87 to Highway 86, south and east of Highway 86 from Highway 320 to Highway 345, east of Highway 345 from Highway 86 to Highway 679, east of Highway 679 from Highway 345 to Highway 3083 and south of Highway 3083 from Highway 679 to the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee. This rule will expire two years from its effective date.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6 (25) (a), R.S. 56:325(C) and R.S. 56:326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 25:1990 (October 1999), amended LR 39: .

§149. Black Bass Regulations-Daily Take and Size Limits

A. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission establishes a statewide daily take (creel limit) of 10 fish for black bass (*Micropterus spp.*). The

possession limit shall be the same as the daily take on water and twice the daily take off water.

B. In addition, the Commission establishes special size and daily take regulations for black bass on the following water bodies:

B.1. - B.5.a ...

6. Atchafalaya River Basin and adjacent waters:

a. The size and daily take for black bass in the Atchafalaya River Basin and adjacent waters are established in Sections 165 and 189 of this Chapter.

*Maximum total length - The distance in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the most posterior point of the depressed caudal fin as measured with mouth closed on a flat surface.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6

(25) (a), R.S. 56:325(C), R.S. 56:326.3, and R.S. 56:673.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 14:364 (June 1988), amended LR 17:278 (March 1991), repromulgated LR 17:488 (May 1991), amended LR 17:1122 (November 1991), LR 20:796 (July 1994), LR 23:1168 (September 1997), LR 24:505 (March 1998), LR 26:97 (January 2000), LR 28:104 (January 2002), LR 29:373 (March 2003), LR 30:2339 (October 2004), repromulgated LR 30:2495 (November 2004), amended LR 37:2440 (August 2011), amended LR 39: .

The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact Statements, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit written comments of the Notice of Intent to Mr. Mike Wood, Director, Inland Fisheries Section, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 no later than 4:30 p.m., May 2, 2013.

In accordance with Act #1183 of the 1999 regular session of the Louisiana Legislature, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent: This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Ronald Graham
Chairman